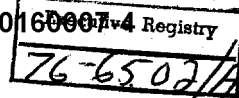
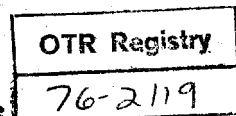


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505



OLC 76-0244/a



12 FEB 1976

Honorable Bella S. Abzug, Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Individual Rights  
Committee on Government Operations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Madame Chairwoman:

This is in response to your letter dated 27 January 1976 requesting information concerning the relationship or contacts of the Central Intelligence Agency with Airlie Foundation or Airlie House Conference Center, Warrenton, Virginia.

As you undoubtedly are aware, the Airlie Foundation at Warrenton, Virginia provides facilities for conferences sponsored by, among others, agencies of the Federal Government and private organizations. The CIA and its employees have been extended invitations by sponsors to attend conferences. The CIA, however, has never been a sponsor of a conference held at the Warrenton facility nor at any other facility of Airlie Foundation in the United States or elsewhere. Specific responses to the questions raised in your letter are enclosed.

In view of the absence of any direct relationship of CIA with Airlie Foundation or Airlie House Conference Center or with any of their officers or personnel, we trust that this response satisfies your inquiry.

Sincerely,

/s/ Vernon A. Walters

Vernon A. Walters  
Acting Director

Enclosure  
as stated

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Approved For Release 2004/12/16 : CIA-RDP81-00896R000100160007-4



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Responses to Questions Raised in Inquiry from

C. Irwoman Abzug dated 27 Januar 1976

Approved For Release 2004/12/16 : CIA-RDP81-00896R000100160007-4

(1) The nature and extent of the relationship or contacts of the Central Intelligence Agency (or any other element of the United States intelligence community) with Airlie Foundation or Airlie House Conference Center, each of Warrenton, Virginia, or with any of their officers, personnel, activities or programs.

Employees of the Central Intelligence Agency have by invitation attended conferences held at the Airlie House Conference Center at Warrenton, Virginia sponsored by other government agencies or private organizations. The invitations were made solely by the sponsors to the CIA or directly personally to CIA employees. There has been no direct relationship or contact of the CIA with Airlie Foundation, the Conference Center or their personnel.

In regard to your request as to the nature and extent of the relationship or contacts of any other element of the U. S. intelligence community with the Airlie Foundation and its Conference Center, we feel it best that you contact these agencies directly since we have no knowledge of the extent of their relationship with the Foundation.

(2) Whether the CIA or any of its personnel has had any contacts with, or been present at the Airlie House Conference Center or its activities, or has had contacts with its officers or personnel. If so, state who was present on each and every such occasion, the date and time the activity occurred, the nature of the activity and the nature of any contact or communication.

The invitations to the CIA and its employees to attend conferences held at the Airlie Foundation have come from the sponsors of the conferences and not from any officers or personnel of the Airlie Foundation. There has been no official contact with the Foundation officials or personnel other than casual contact with the Conference Center service personnel who provide meals and lodging.

Most invitations to CIA employees have been personal and informal, particularly for those conferences sponsored by the Department of State. Course announcements were sent by the Civil Service Commission to government agencies, including CIA to attend the "Conference of Ethics Counselors" held 24-25 November 1975. The CIA also attended the "Population Analysis Conference" sponsored by the Agency for International Development which was held for three days in March and May 1971.

Dr. Murdock Head, founder of the Airlie Foundation, is prominent in medical professional circles and certain of our medical personnel have had casual social contact with Dr. Head at meetings of professional medical organizations. Also, a CIA employee is a social acquaintance of John Berne, a former officer of the Airlie Foundation. The CIA employee, in 1971, was involved in developing a training course for senior CIA officials and informally discussed with Mr. Berne, who by this time was no longer a Foundation official, the possibility of utilizing the facilities of the Airlie Foundation at Warrenton, Virginia. The Foundation was not selected and was not approached formally.

(3) Whether any CIA funds have been used, directly or indirectly, by or for Airlie House Conference Center, Airlie Foundation, or any of their officers or employees or by any persons attending their conferences, either in the United States or elsewhere, including Latin America. If so, state what funds have been so expended and the specific purpose or purposes for which they were expended.

No CIA funds have ever been expended, directly or indirectly, for any of the purposes indicated either in the U. S. or elsewhere. Payment of any fees charged were made to the sponsor.

(4) Whether the CIA, directly or indirectly, through the Agency for International Development, any other government agency, or otherwise, has made any comments, suggestions or recommendations regarding the activities or programs of Airlie Foundation or Airlie House Conference Center, their officers, or their personnel. If so, state what comments, suggestions or recommendations were made, by whom they were made, how and to whom they were transmitted, and what responses were received to them.

Agency employees have commented concerning conferences that they attended. The comments have been informal and made to Agency associates and to the sponsors who extended the invitation. No CIA attendees (and as far as can be determined no other CIA personnel) have submitted any comments, suggestions or recommendations directly to the Airlie Foundation, its Center or any of its officers or personnel. Nor were any CIA comments given to sponsors intended by CIA to be passed on to the Airlie Foundation, though it is possible that this was done by the sponsors.

(5) Whether the CIA has obtained any information at any time regarding what was said, transpired or took place at the Airlie House Conference Center or at any other place or activity sponsored by such Conference Center or by the Airlie Foundation, including but not limited to places and activities in or concerning Latin America pursuant to contracts with the Agency for International Development. If so, supply such information and state how it was obtained, the reason it was obtained, and all uses to which it was put.

Of course, CIA employees discussed the subject of the conferences that they attended with their Agency associates and undoubtedly with others having an interest in the subject. Also, CIA employees would have discussed the subject matter of a conference with those who attended when the subject was of interest to the CIA employees.